

15 September 2017

C88146

Ti Lamusse
fyi-request-6407-5c327415@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ti Lamusse

Thank you for your email of 14 August 2017, in which you request information related to prisoner unemployment and the Waitangi Tribunal's inquiry into the Department and Māori re-offending. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Your request is in response to previous correspondence from Corrections, where it was stated that in 2016, 87 percent of prisoners did not pay income tax in the month prior to entering prison. You have asked two additional questions that I have addressed below:

- *In your response, you state that in work recently undertaken by Corrections, you assessed the income and employment of prisoners at the time they enter prison. Please provide me with that work.*

The work referenced in Corrections' previous correspondence resulted in our conclusion that 87 percent of prisoners were unemployed, working for income but not paying tax, receiving a benefit, or being financially supported by another person immediately prior to entering prison.

This was determined by using data held in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), owned by Statistics New Zealand. While approved researchers can perform analysis and extract information from the IDI, the datasets remain within it, and cannot be released.

As such, this part of your request is declined under section 18(g) of the OIA as Corrections does not hold the information requested and we have no grounds for believing that it is held by another agency or more closely connected with the functions of another agency.

Please note that there is a specific process for researchers wishing to use data in the IDI for research purposes. You may find more information on the Statistics New Zealand website:

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/integrated-data-infrastructure.aspx

- *Please provide me with your briefs of evidence to the Waitangi Tribunal inquiry on Māori reoffending.*

The Crown's evidence in this inquiry has been made publicly available, in its entirety, by the Waitangi Tribunal. Using the relevant Wai Number, 2540, you may search for this information online: <https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/WT/>

Accordingly, this part of your request is declined under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information requested is publicly available.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Richard Waggott
Deputy Chief Executive (Acting)
Corporate Services